

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. NO.: 3488-01
BILL NO.: HB 1636
SUBJECT: Political Parties: Elections
TYPE: Original
DATE: February 16, 2000

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
General Revenue	(\$240,000)	(\$90,000)	(\$240,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	(\$240,000)	(\$90,000)	(\$240,000)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Local Government	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Secretary of State officials assume that Section 115.277 of this proposal would allow any eligible voter to vote an absentee ballot with no excuse, and would increase the number of absentee ballots voted, thereby increasing cost to the state pursuant to Section 115.285. Officials estimate that \$240,000 would be the cost of reimbursing local election authorities for pre-paid postage return envelopes for mailed absentee ballots in FY 2001, and \$90,000 in FY 2002; and \$240,000 in FY 2003. Officials stated that the reason for greater cost in even numbered years is because both the Primary and General elections are held in even numbered calendar years.

The **Monroe County Clerk** assumes no fiscal impact.

The **Franklin County Clerk** stated that to allow anyone to vote an absentee ballot for any reason would have major cost for their office. Officials assume that as voters find out that they can vote absentee there would be an increase in absentee voting. Officials assume this would add administrative impact and would cause their office to purchase more absentee supplies.

Officials assume that if they were to participate in the single ballot primary pilot program, they would have to upgrade their software. Officials stated that in the 1988 Presidential Primary the county combined the party ballots into one voting machine and found that voters did not follow the instructions and did in fact voided their votes by voting for party candidates not associated with the party punch card they had chosen

Officials estimate that to comply with section 115.277 absentee voting, the costs in FY 2001 would be \$82,000; in FY 2002 \$219,900; and in FY 2003 \$86,000.

Kansas City Board of Election Commission officials assume that to allow anyone to vote absentee for any reason would increase costs. Officials did not estimate costs increase

Oversight assumes that for local election authorities to participate in the pilot project for a single ballot primary would be permissive, therefore, Oversight will show costs to local government as \$0 or (Unknown). Costs would not occur until after the 2000 election year.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
General Revenue Fund <u>Cost to Secretary of State</u> for absentee ballot costs to local election authorities	(\$240,000)	(\$90,000)	(\$240,000)
 <u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	 FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	 FY 2002	 FY 2003
<u>Income to Local Governments</u> from Secretary of State absentee ballot costs reimbursement	\$240,000	\$90,000	\$240,000
<u>Cost to Local Governments</u> from absentee ballot costs	(\$240,000)	(\$90,000)	(\$240,000)
<u>Cost to Local Governments</u> single party ballot	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

Under current law, registered voters are allowed to vote by absentee ballot if they expect to be prevented from going to the polls to vote for certain enumerated reasons. This bill removes the requirement that a voter meet one of the enumerated reasons before being allowed to vote by absentee ballot.

The bill also requires the Secretary of State to administer a pilot project establishing a single-ballot primary for counties that wish to participate. An opt-in procedure for participating in the pilot project is detailed, as well as the method for determining the candidate listing order.

L.R. NO. 3488-01
BILL NO. HB 1636
PAGE 4 OF 4
February 16, 2000

DESCRIPTION(continued)

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Secretary of State
Kansas Board of Election Commission
Franklin County Clerk
Monroe County Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne Jarrett". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a cursive "Jarrett".

Jeanne Jarrett, CPA
Director
February 16, 2000